

Message Text

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SUBJ: UNICEF PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1976

1. SUMMARY: UNICEF PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1976 HELD IN NEWYORK, NOVEMBER 6, \$70.456 MILLION WAS PLEDGED BY 90 GOVERNMENTS FOR GENERAL RESOURCES OF UNICEF IN 1976. AN ADDITIONAL \$2,509 MILLION WAS PLEDGED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES WHILE A FURTHER \$20.3 MILLION WAS "ANTICIPATED" BY UNICEF FROM GOVERNMENTS NOT ABLE TO MAKE PLEDGES AT THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE, ALL RESULTING IN A 1976 GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TOTAL TO UNICEF OF \$93.265 MILLION. THIS WOULD REPRESENT A 7 PERCENT INCREASE IN ABSOLUTE TERMS OVER 1975 WHICH IS DISAPPOINTING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECOND UNICEF PLEDGING CONFERENCE CAME OFF SMOOTHLY WITH MOST DELEGATIONS LIMITING THEIR REMARKS TO COMMENDATIONS OF THE UNICEF STAFF AND PAST EFFORTS, GENERALLY ALONG THE LINES OF THE US STATEMENT. (TEXT OF US DEL STATEMENT BY SEPTTEL.) IN HIS OPENING REMARKS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT MEGUID (EGYPT) INDICATED THAT SOMETHING IN THE ORDER OF \$200 MILLION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT AN EFFECTIVE UNICEF PROGRAM IN 1976. THIS WOULD REQUIRE A SUBSTAN-
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TIAL INCREASE OVER THE \$120 MILLION PLUS 1975 BUDGET.

IN CLOSING REMARKS TO THE CONFERENCE, UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LABOUISSIE REITERATED THIS \$200 MILLION LEVEL. IN AN OPENING STATEMENT SYG WALDHEIM CALLED UPON GOVERNMENTS TO PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO AN INCREASING LEVEL OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO UNICEF.

3. A TOTAL OF 32 GOVERNMENTS ANNOUNCED HIGHER PLEDGES FOR 1976 THEN 1975. SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTORS PLEDGING SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1976 WERE CANADA--\$8.0 MILLION (40 PERCENT INCREASE); NORWAY--\$5.5 MILLION (36 PERCENT INCREASE); NETHERLANDS--\$3.6 MILLION (100 PERCENT INCREASE); UNITED KINGDOM--\$4.6 MILLION (15 PERCENT INCREASE); SAUDI ARABIA--\$1.0 MILLION (100 PERCENT INCREASE). NORWAY ALSO INDICATED A 1977 CONTRIBUTION PLANNING LEVEL OF \$8.3 MILLION.

4. THE SWEDISH PLEDGING STATEMENT NOTED THAT THE BULK OF THE COMPARATIVELY LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE COME FROM THE SMALLER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY SCANDINAVIA, I.E., APPROXIMATELY ONE OF THE UNICEF BUDGET NOW COMES FROM THE NORDICS. THE SWEDES DID NOT MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION INCREASE FOR 1976, PLEDGING \$15.0 MILLION FOR 1976 APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO THEIR 1975 CONTRIBUTION. OTHER THAN LOW KEY STATEMENTS TO SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INDO-CHINA (CANADA, NETHERLANDS AND CUBA) AND REFERENCE TO A LETTER FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES OF VIETNAM EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR UNICEF EFFORTS, INDO-CHINA WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

5. BASED ON ACTUAL COUNTRY PLEDGES AND PAST EXPERIENCE AT THE CONFERENCE CLOSING, UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MADE A PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF \$75.756 MILLION FOR 1976 GENERAL BUDGETARY RESOURCES, COMPARED TO \$70.5 MILLION FOR 1975. IF UNICEF'S ACTUAL REVENUES EQUAL OR EXCEED THIS AMOUNT, THE RESULT WILL BE PRESENT AN OVERALL GENERAL RESOURCE BUDGET INCREASE OF 7 PERCENT. IN LIGHT OF RECENT AND PROBABLY CONTINUING HIGHER INFLATION RATES, THIS DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY GROWTH IN UNICEF RESOURCES, AND THUS RESULTS ARE NOT VERY POSITIVE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT IN COMPILING THESE FIGURES UNICEF USED CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES; INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE ONLY \$17.0 MILLION (UNPLEDGED) FOR THE US CONTRIBUTION VICE THE \$20 MILLION PROPOSED FIGURE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE US CONGRESS.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE US CONTRIBUTION, US DELEGATE SCELSI STATED THAT "CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE 1976 US CONTRIBUTION IS STILL IN PROCESS AND UNTIL THAT IS COMPLETED

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ENTER A PLEDGE...HOWEVER, THAT
THE PROPOSAL BEFORE THE CONGRESS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE
IN THE US CONTRIBUTION TO UNICEF OVER 1975..."
DETAILED PLEDGE LIST WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT AS
SOON AS RECEIVED AT USUN.

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